

# Monongahela Township

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August 4, 2014

Monongahela Township and Greensboro Borough jointly incorporated Dunkard Valley Joint Municipal Authority (DVJMA) in accordance with the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Act. DVJMA presently is the legal owner of the water treatment plant, pumps, water lines, and appurtenances of their system.

The Board of Directors of the East Dunkard Water Authority (EDWA), formerly the East Dunkard Water Association, owns and operates a public water system located at 2790 S. Eighty Eight Road in Dunkard Township, Greene County. EDWA provides public water service to customers in Monongahela, Greene, Cumberland, Perry, Dunkard, and Whitely Townships as well as Greensboro Borough.

During 2013 and 2014, DVJMA and EDWA customers reported a significant number of complaints regarding water quality and availability. On numerous occasions, DVJMA customers experienced not only brown water coming from their faucets but also numerous water outages. Temporary water tanks and subsequent boil water notices have become routine.

During 2013, DVJMA customers suffered so many failures that it ultimately led DVJMA declaring a State of Emergency.

During 2013, meetings with local public officials, members of the Board of Directors of DVJMA and EDWA, and other interested parties were conducted to discuss the public water system failures and to seek remedies.

During 2013, as a remedy, all parties agreed that DVJMA and EDWA would work together to determine a plan as expeditiously as possible to "merge" or "acquire". It was believed that one larger system would provide customers the opportunity to have safe, reliable and affordable potable water. All parties agreed that DVJMA and EDWA would explore any and all feasible options and would take the necessary steps to implement the determined viable plan. To that end, DVJMA and EDWA jointly executed an "Intent to Acquire" Agreement.

In November/December 2013, the Board of Directors of EDWA voted to increase the water rates for their customers. The Board indicated that the rate increase was necessary to offset rising operations and maintenance costs in addition to the loss of a large water user, First Energy's Hatfield Ferry Power Plant.

In 2014, the DVJMA and EDWA Board of Directors became aware that Pennsylvania American Water Company (PAWC) wished to initiate a conversation and negotiations with both authorities to explore options for a possible PAWC acquisition.

In July 2014, EDWA was awarded a five million dollar PENNVEST Grant and a four million dollar PENNVEST loan, to make the necessary improvements to the public water systems to facilitate the consolidation of DVJMA with EDWA.

Recently, the Board of Directors of EDWA has expressed their desire to not seek options, formally or informally, and to not follow through on the plan agreed upon with local elected officials in 2013.

We believe that not continuing with the merger of the two authorities and/or holding discussions with PAWC or any other interested entity could impose a serious hardship to many of the authorities' customers - our constituents.

We, the Supervisors, of Monongahela Township:

- Urge EDWA to fulfill their commitment to "explore all options" and to genuinely work with all elected municipal officials and the public to resolve this complex matter correctly and timely.
- Provide all involved township and borough officials with a copy of the PENNVEST application and award determination. Monongahela Township Supervisors strongly believe that all township residents should be made aware of the options available to provide safe, reliable and affordable potable water.
- Urge EDWA to immediately host public inter-municipal meetings to explain the details of the "Intent to Acquire" agreement and the associated PENNVEST award, particularly as it relates to future proposed water rates.

- Ask that EDWA solicit proposals from other interested public water agencies, including PAWC, for opportunities for acquisition, merging, or any other partnership arrangement.
- Urge EDWA to diligently and responsibly consider any and all opportunities that come forward so that all of our residents will have the opportunity for safe, reliable and affordable public water.

We recognize that there is an enormous amount of responsibility on the shoulders of each of the EDWA board members. We strongly encourage that they immediately begin to proactively work with all of the elected officials involved and volunteer our services to aid them in this endeavor. We all need to work hard to represent the best interest of our constituents, their water customers.

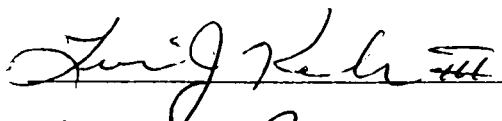
To allow this crisis to continue for the affected water users could place us, and all of Greene County, in an unfavorable situation with any future funding agency.

Monongahela Township Supervisors wish to assure township residents that we will continue to encourage DVJMA and EDWA to move forward to provide safe, reliable and affordable public water service for the residents, businesses and institutions that they currently serve.

Monongahela Township Supervisors believe that development of a robust public water system infrastructure will position ours and surrounding areas with the ability to pursue and draw in new businesses and industry. The resulting economic growth in Greene County will enhance the lives of all current and future residents.



William Monahan. Chairman



Louis J. Kovach. Vice-Chairman



Michael Rudolph. Supervisor